

Homeless Challenge Grants

What does this program do?

Funds local initiatives to assist homeless individuals at or below the poverty level.

What is the statutory base?

Federal: P.L. 97-35, Community Services Block Grant Act

Is this a federally mandated program?

No.

What is the funding?

State Fiscal Year	General Revenue	Federal	Other	Total
2001	\$0	\$0.5 mil	\$0	\$0.5 mil
2002	\$0	\$0.5 mil	\$0	\$0.5 mil
2003	\$0	\$0.5 mil	\$0	\$0.5 mil
2004	\$0	\$0.5 mil	\$0	\$0.5 mil

What are the sources of the non-general revenue funds?

Community Service Block Grant

Who is eligible to contract with the Family Support Division?

Local governments. (Note: Local government must provide \$3 in match for every \$1 in funding.)

How many local governments contract for homeless challenge grants with the Family Support Division?

SFY-2001	SFY-2002	SFY-2003
16	16	16

How prevalent is homelessness in Missouri?

From their 2002 Homelessness in Missouri Survey, the Missouri Association of Social Welfare (MASW) found on any given day there were 45,700 (or 8 per 1,000) Missourians who were homeless in 2001. Annually, MASW found 87,250 homeless Missourians.

What are some other things we know about homelessness in the state?

In *A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America's Cities 2002 A 25-City Survey*, the United States Conference of Mayors reported the following comparative information for Kansas City and St. Louis for the period of November 1, 2001, to October 31, 2002:

	Kansas City	St. Louis	25-City Average
Percentage Increase in Requests for Emergency Shelter From Prior Year	25%	64%	19%
Unmet Need for Emergency Shelter for Homeless People	56%	58%	30%
Length of Time People Are Homeless	7 Months	Not Available	6 Months

Who do city officials estimate are their homeless population?

	Kansas City	St. Louis	25-City Average
Families with Children	66%	82%	41%
Single Men	33%	10%	41%
Single Women	0%	7%	13%
Unaccompanied Youth	1%	0%	5%

Some other observed characteristics included:

	Kansas City	St. Louis	25-City Average
Mentally Ill	20.0%	1.2%	23.0%
Substance Abusers	28.0%	6.2%	32.0%
Employed	0.0%	7.0%	22.0%
Veterans	9.0%	3.0%	10.0%
Single Parent Families	81.0%	94.0%	Not Available

When asked to comment on any significant change experienced from the prior year, Kansas City officials remarked the length of time people in their city are homeless has increased. They attributed the increase to the economy, housing shortage and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families disenrollments.